



# Long Beach Historical Society

Remembering the past to preserve our future

October 2022

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## President's Message

Happy Fall Y'all,

Looking forward to seeing everyone during this busy time of year for us. It's meeting time and Cemetery Tour time.

I hope all of you locals can make it to the Tour on Thursday Oct 20 at 5:00 P. M. We had a great time last year and a nice crowd was in attendance. The tip jar was stuffed full and there were still left-overs after we used some of the proceeds to defray expenses by paying the mandatory insurance premium for the event.

I would also like to remind everyone that the Historical Society had its first meeting in August of 1997 so we have now been in existence for twenty-five years. Congratulations to us!!!!!!! We will have anniversary cake at the meeting.

We haven't been able to stop talking about the July meeting program. Carolyn Reeves Hamilton presented a most interesting program on her father, Thomas L. "Joe" Reeves, who was the school superintendent for 32 years. His term covered the years from 1952 through 1984. Mr. Reeves faced adversity in so many ways during his lifetime and rose to the top each time. What a role model and inspiration to those of us lucky enough to have known him!

There will be an in-house program this month on an entertainer who got his start in the great state of Mississippi, which makes him very interesting, but that's all I'm saying about it for now. It's nice to have a surprise every now and then.

Sincerely  
Beth Hansen

**SMOKE FROM THE  
CHIMNEYS  
LONG BEACH, MS**

Beth Hansen: Editor  
228-864-6100

Published quarterly by the  
Long Beach  
Historical Society

**Officers**

- President – Beth Hansen
- Secretary – Allisa Beck
- Treasurer – Eddie Ware

**Board of Directors**

- Lucius Marks
- Bernie Parker
- Monnie Sherily
- Billie Skellie

**Mailing Address:**

P. O. Box 244  
Long Beach, MS 39560-0244

**Physical Address**

645 Klondyke RD.

Meetings will all be held  
on the THIRD Mondays at  
Historical Society Building,  
645 Klondyke Rd.

**2022 Meetings:**

- January 17 -11:00 am
- April 18 - 6:00 p.m.
- July 18 - 6:00 p.m.
- October 17 - 6:00 p.m.

**Email Address:**

lbhistoricalsociety@  
lbhistoricalsociety.com

**Website:**

www.lbhistoricalsociety.org  
Eddie Ware – Webmaster

**Mission Statement**

The Society's purpose is  
"to bring together those  
people interested in the  
history of the City of Long  
Beach and to coordinate  
their efforts in preserving  
and recording that history  
for future generations."

Long Beach Historical  
Society is a volunteer-  
based organization  
dedicated to the:

- Preservation and  
management of historic  
and cultural resources of  
Long Beach
- Provide educational  
opportunities for both its  
membership and the public

# CEMETERY TOUR 2022

## MEET & GREET THE SPIRITS

**Thursday Oct 20 5:00 PM, City Cemetery, S. Railroad & Girard Ave.**



**Come greet the town spirits, it's that time of year,  
to learn about them and spread the good cheer.**



**We'll tell you who helped Long Beach begin,  
they never knew we'd tell their stories, again and again.**

**Stories that came from family or were read as news in the paper,  
provided lots of information relevant to this caper.**

**An Indian from the Honduras moved to the Mississippi Coast,  
Matias loved and enjoyed his new home, a fact he liked to boast!**

**Maria McCaughan joined the Navy, so unusual back in her day,  
Her dad is still popular around town, his name we love to say!**

**Clarence Castanera, a druggist who kept everyone in good health,  
Owning lots of property contributed to great wealth!!**

**The Allens, John & Joanna, had a nursery, they named it Lilydale,  
It contained fabulous shrubs and hundreds of blooms, all for sale!!**

**Marshall Allen, expertly toiled with his parents in the Lilydale Earth,  
But found joy as an accountant, helping others tend to their worth!**



**Long Beach Historical Society**

Remembering the past to preserve the future  
www.lbhistoricalsociety.org

Gravesite Flowers  
Donated BY:  
Lois' Flower Shop  
19146 Pineville Rd.  
228-863-9767

Since it's Cemetery Tour time, here is information from one of our former scripts, with a few revisions, which profiles Ed Fillingim, and also gives us an opportunity to pass along some history.

### Ed Fillingim

Ed Fillingim was like so many others who lived and did business in Long Beach. He came here from Louisiana, Algiers to be exact. He moved to this area with his mother and step-father, the Brownlees. He later married Constance DeRoacha, also from Algiers, where they married and had their first child, a daughter. He was eager to move back to Long Beach and brought his new bride here before their second daughter was born. They went on to have five sons and enjoyed a long and happy life in this little town.

A butcher by trade, Ed opened a shop on Jeff Davis Avenue and eventually built a home behind it. The location was in the vicinity of Sonic and Little Ray's. At that time other butchers operated by meat wagon thereby bringing the product to the customer. Years later, there were times when his sons also made deliveries for him using their bicycles.

- In 1921, Ed & Tony decided to move their home away from the meat market. They bought the lot on the NE corner of Third Street and Jeff Davis Ave, where the City library is now. They hired M. H. Bass to move their home down the street. It was definitely an interesting sight to see, right in the middle of town. The house was placed on logs and rolled down the avenue by a team of oxen. Fortunately for all concerned, the process did not take very long because of the short distance, but it drew a crowd.
- Mr. M. H. Bass was in charge of this feat and the family thought he did an excellent job. The home was placed on high pillars and some of the Fillingim grandchildren have fond memories of walking under it when they were small. The move was a day of entertainment for all in the area, something one doesn't see very often. But believe it or not, just a few years later, the former home of J. N. Whitten, the first mayor of the city, also had to be moved. It was located where the Bankhouse Coffee business is today. Back then, the property had been sold to Hancock Bank which planned to open a branch in Long Beach.
- Another believe it or not: that old home is still standing today on Second St across from City Hall and is nicely decorated with a large spider and huge web attached to the upper balcony.

At one time, Ed became employed with the City Market in Gulfport, serving in a managerial position. The City Market was located downtown on Thirteenth Street. Other coast cities had these markets too, where vendors rented out spaces for their businesses. Biloxi had one at each end of their town. It was quite busy during those years with many customers coming and going!

Mr. Fillingim also managed the meat market in the Ideal Grocery for a few years in the 1920's and spent much of the 1930's working in his own market again, the Gem Meat Market at 220 East Beach Blvd in Pass Christian. He later moved the Gem Market to Jeff Davis Ave. in Long Beach between 1936 and 1939 and it was from this location that he retired in 1940.

Surely the Fillingims are looking down on their former property on which a beautiful new library was opened on in 1966.

## Condolences

Our deepest sympathy to the family of Billy Fennell, husband of Laura McCardle Fennell, and son of Bill and Dolores. Billy also leaves six daughters, three siblings, and many grand children. Billy had a 28 year career with the City Fire Dept, retiring as Chief. He passed on May 20, 2022.

Also, please remember Tom Adams, Jr. age 101, who passed July 23 in Pass Christian. Some of you may recall that Tom, a veteran of 3 wars, spoke to the society at our October meeting in 2013. It was a delight to have him speak to us and he even brought a piece of his parachute. He was a Flight Officer who also served in the reserves after retiring in 1966. He worked for NASA support contractors at Stennis and was married for 67 years to the former Esther Saucier, who preceeded him in death.

Eddie Ware  
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Long Beach, MS 39560-4034

Find more at [lbhistoricalsociety.org](http://lbhistoricalsociety.org)



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The logo for "Smoke From The Chimneys" features a stylized illustration of a house with two chimneys. From the chimneys, thick, dark smoke billows out, forming a cloud-like shape. The text "Smoke From The Chimneys" is written in a white, serif font across the smoke.